

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3 and 9 are cancelled, claims 2, 4-8, and 10-21 remain in this application as amended herein, and claims 22-23 are added. Accordingly, claims 2, 4-8, and 10-23 are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

Claims 2, 4-5, 7-8, and 10-19 have been amended solely to have the claims better conform to the requirements of U.S. practice. None of these amendments is intended to narrow the scope of any of these claims, and no new matter has been added by these amendments.

In the Office Action, claims 6, 20, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 6, 20, and 21 have been amended to correct the informalities. It is therefore submitted that claims 6, 20, and 21 are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Turning now to the art rejection, the claims 2, 4-8, and 10-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Odman (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0058686). Applicant submits, however, that the sections of Odman that are relied on by the Examiner cannot be considered prior art for the purpose of rejecting the claims of the present application.

The present application claims the benefit of the filing date of Japanese Application No. P2002-197509, filed on July 2, 2002.

Odman is the published U.S. Application No. 10/609,667, filed on July 1, 2003, and claims the benefit of the filing date of U.S. Provisional Application Nos. 60/393,185 and 60/393,186, both filed on July 2, 2002. However, it is submitted that the teachings of the relied on sections of Odman are not disclosed in U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/393,185

and are not disclosed in U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/393,186. Therefore, the prior art date of the relied on sections of Odman is July 1, 2003, which is later than the priority date of the present application. It follows that the relied on sections of Odman are not prior art.

Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 112, second paragraph.

New claim 22 includes limitations similar to those set out in independent claims 1, 8 and 20, and new claim 23 includes limitations similar to those set out in independent claims 14, 17 and 21. Therefore, each of new claims 22 and 23 are similarly supported.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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